

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are now pending, with claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Dependent claims 8-10 have been added. Support for new dependent claims 8 and 9 may be found, for example, in Fig. 2 and at pg. 4, lines 2-3 of the Substitute Specification. Support for new dependent claim 10 may be, for example, in Fig. 4 and at pg. 4, lines 13-16 of the Substitute Specification. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,106,277 (“*Tuckey*”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,121,021 (“*Ward*”). For the following reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 was previously amended to recite “wherein the electric motor stator ring and an adjoining component of at least one of the motor casing and the magnet shells comprise a single-piece body formed entirely from a same material”. The combination of *Tuckey* and *Ward* fails to achieve this limitation.

The Examiner (at pg. 4 of the Office Action) acknowledges that *Tuckey* fails to teach or suggest the above limitation, and cites *Ward* to cure the deficiency of *Tuckey*. According to the Examiner, *Ward* discloses the “final remaining element missing from that of the *Tuckey* reference”. Applicants disagree.

Ward fails to teach or suggest the single-piece body recited in independent claim 1. *Ward* (col. 1, lines 16-18) explains that “it is the object of this invention to provide a frame and magnet assembly where the frame is formed of a molded composite magnetic material of iron powder and plastic material”. *Ward* (col. 1, lines 24-27) additionally explains that “[t]he composite magnetic frame material is comprised of iron powder particles having a particle size in a range of about 10 to 250 microns that are coated with a thin layer of thermoplastic material”.

Ward (col. 1, lines 27-32) further explains that “[t]he composite material is molded to the permanent magnet. It, accordingly, is another object of this invention to provide a method of manufacturing a frame and permanent magnet assembly where a composite material of the type described is molded to the permanent magnet”. *Ward* thus teaches a magnet assembly in which the frame (12) and the magnets (14) are separate components that are provided in the final assembled motor.

Accordingly, even though *Ward* describes multiple components made of the same material, *Ward* nevertheless fails to teach or suggest that the “electric motor stator ring and an adjoining component of at least one of the motor casing and the magnet shells comprise a single-piece body”, as recited in independent claim 1. *Tuckey* and *Ward*, individually or in combination, therefore fail to teach or suggest the above-recited limitation of independent claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, independent claim 1 is patentable over the combination of *Tuckey* and *Ward*. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are therefore in order, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

In view of the patentability of independent claim 1, dependent claims 2-7, as well as new dependent claims 8-10, are also patentable over the prior art for the reasons set forth above, as well as for the additional recitations contained therein.

Based on the foregoing remarks, this application is in condition for allowance. Early passage of this case to issue is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: January 12, 2010